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REISSUE

TELEGRAMS ON PROBLEMS IN INDONESIA EXCHANGED BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN
AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AND MOUNTBATTEN
(1945)

From: CANBERRA

To : MOUNTBATTEN

No.: 45 ✓

16th November 1945

[75 groups unrecoverable]

M. PLUMB(i), the authorized representative of the Government, was appointed to accompany them. The Government informed MOUNTBATTEN of its decision and asked him to cooperate and, in particular, not to employ repressive measures against the Indonesians, since this could lead to internal complications in AUSTRALIA. In his reply M.(ii) referred to heavy losses and internal disturbances in JAVA and said that all this made it impossible to carry out the Australian Government's decision. On 13rd October CHIFLEY communicated the following to MOUNTBATTEN: "The Indonesians will be landed in the ports of their choice, i.e. in SURABAYA or MEDAN." On 13rd October M. informed LONDON of this and declared that he would take no

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(Continued overleaf)

responsibility for landing the Indonesians under existing conditions and asked for instructions. In a telegram dated 23rd October CHIFLEY sent ATTLEE an explanation, stating that M. attached too much significance to the words of the Dutch, who were ready to suspect any political opponent of being an "extremist", and that the arrival of 140 Indonesians would hardly give great assistance to the extremists in their struggle for an independent republic. Further CHIFLEY [8% pointed out that] to abandon the Indonesians, as M. proposed, was impossible, as this would arouse serious anxiety in AUSTRALIA. [6% =]

[17 groups unrecovered]

and I ask that the landing be arranged as was originally intended, i.e. without any incidents or repressive measures on the part of the Dutch authorities in the ports indicated by the Indonesians. The contents of ATTLEE's telegram of 23rd October, addressed to CHIFLEY, [2 groups unrecovered] [6% the position] [2 groups unrecovered] is becoming so complicated [2 groups unrecovered]

[85 groups unrecoverable]

Comments: [i] PLUMB: ✓ Not traced. Spelt in Cyrillic "PLUM", repeated in LATIN "PLUMB".

[11] M.: i.e. MOUNTBATTEN.